

February 22, 2017



- - THIS IS VINCENT
FROM STAMFORD, CT

Dear Senators and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Carol Bruzzese and I live in Stamford. I am the parent of Vincent Bruzzese, 19 year's old, who has severe Intellectual Disabilities and eligible for DDS Services upon his graduation of CES School in June 2018.

I am testifying on the impact of the Governor's budget on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

My son will be left with nothing if you do not reconsider these cuts especially the cuts that clearly fund "nothing" to new graduates for 2017 and 2018. With this lack of funding, Vincent will just "fall off a cliff" upon graduation with no supports whatsoever!

I have lived in Stamford, Connecticut my whole life. I have continued to work to support my son and not be a burden on society. Now that Vincent is going to be an adult he desperately needs this funding for his care and his well-being.

Please hear my voice and I beg you to:

Please support the Governor's proposal to invest \$3.8 million in the ID Partnership which will help people on the DDS residential waiting list, support developing more residential options for people with I/DD and stabilize community based supports.

Please restore funding for day and employment services for all new graduates!

Please restore funding for Family Support Grants!

Please restore funding for new families who need Behavioral Support Services!

Please cut overtime and waste in DDS – DON'T CUT COMMUNITY SERVICES!

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Carol Bruzzese
24 Northhill Street
Stamford, CT 06907